

Subject: Indian Peace medals price list?

Babcock, Willoughby M.

1931-1932

[Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, MN]

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March 6, 1931.

Secretary,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

From time to time in this museum we have been receiving requests for current prices on medals of the Indian Peace and Friendship series. Is there any list or catalog available to which we could refer for such information? Or is it a matter of "collector's" value?

At present we have an inquiry regarding the rarity and money value of a three inch Monroe Peace and Friendship medal presumably silver.

I should appreciate any information you may be able to give me about the value of these medals.

Sincerely yours,

Willoughby M. Babcock.

WMB/OC

March 9, 1931

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock
Curator, Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Responding to your letter of the 6th, there is no pricelist of Indian Peace Medals. The regular president series of round pieces are worth, in good condition, on an average of from \$25. to \$60., the small ones being worth a little less than the larger ones. The Lincoln ones, on account of Lincoln, fetch from about \$50. to \$75. The late oval silver ones of George Washington, are worth from \$100 to \$500; the English ones from the time of George I to the present day are worth from \$25. to over \$100. I should say that the Monroe three-inch medal, if in good or slightly worn condition, would be worth from about \$35. to \$40. as it is not a rare one. Of course, you realize that only the silver President medals have any worth. The copper ones are for the most part restrikes that can be bought to-day.

I hope this information will prove satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

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March 11, 1931.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York City, New York.

My dear Mr. Wood:-

Thank you for your courteous response
to my letter of inquiry about the value of the Indian
Peace Medals. I shall place this information in my files
for future reference.

It may interest you to know that this
Society possesses the following medals of this class:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Thomas Jefferson | 3 inch pewter(?) |
| 2. James Madison | 3 inch silver |
| 3. John Q. Adams | 2 1/2 inch silver |
| 4. James K. Polk | 2 1/2 inch silver |
| 5. Franklin Pierce | 3 inch silver |

Large oval Washington medal of the Red Jacket type
2 1/2 inch silver Astor American Fur Company medal.

Again thanking you for your courtesy, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Willoughby M. Babcock

WMB.

March 17, 1931

Willoughby M. Babcock
Curator, Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Mr. Babcock:

In reference to your letter of the 11th, your Jefferson medal in pewter is unusual. We have one of a larger size, which had been dug up in an Indian grave. As far as we have been able to ascertain, there is no authority for giving pewter medals to Indians, and yet we have heard of one or two others that must have been given in the early days. Your large oval medal is naturally rare and is the most desirable specimen. The Astor medal is also very rare.

Sincerely yours,

Curator.

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January 27, 1932.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway at 156 Street,
New York City, New York.

My dear Mr. Wood:-

Some time ago you were kind enough to give me a statement of the approximate value of the Presidential medals, which I greatly appreciated.

Recently a gentleman brought in a silver George III medal, of the 1st class, judging from its size and weight, of the "young man" bust design, obverse, and with the usual royal coat of arms on the reverse. The specimen could be classified as "very fair" from the standpoint of condition.

This medal belongs to a Chippewa Indian in poor circumstances, and the gentleman who brought it in wishes to make him a fair offer. Miss Frances Densmore of the Bureau of Ethnology a year or so ago was willing to pay about \$25 for a similar medal on our behalf, but the deal fell through for other reasons.

I should greatly appreciate any statement which you might care to give upon this matter, so that I may answer the inquiry. This gentleman is anxious not to take advantage of the Indian, but rather to pay him a fair price.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy,
I am,

WMB.

Sincerely yours,

Willoughby M. Babcock

January 30, 1932.

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Babcock:

I have seen no quotations on Indian Peace Medals for several years and this branch of collecting at the present time seems to be pretty nearly dead. A number of years ago some George III medals like the one you describe sold at auction sale, as I remember it, for around \$60.00 each. It afterwards came out that there were a number more in the collection that were not put up for sale and remained in one of the dealer's hands. This, to my mind, would bring the price down. Making a guess at it, I should say they are worth about \$35.00 each.

Very truly yours,

HW: JG

Curator

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February 2, 1932.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York City, New York.

My dear Mr. Wood:-

I greatly appreciate your kindness in
sending me a valuation upon George III medals, in answer
to my inquiry.

This information will be sent on to the
gentleman who asked the question.

Sincerely yours,

Willoughby M. Babcock

WMB.

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October 31, 1932.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway at 156 Street,
New York, New York.

My dear Mr. Wood:-

As you have been so kind about assisting me in the identification of other medals, I am taking the liberty of troubling you again.

A resident of the state has written in to the effect that she has found a silver medal, which she describes as follows:

"It is larger than a silver dollar and apparently made of silver. On one side appears a man on horseback and the inscriptions ' Vicksburg 1863, Richmond 1865, Fort Donelson 1862, President 1869 - 77.' On the other side a picture of Ulysses Grant 1832 - 1885. Inscriptions are 'Soldier, President, Citizen, two words unreadable, Earth no more, In our hearts forever.' "

The medal is obviously a Grant memorial piece, but in going over official lists of medals, I fail to find this particular one listed. As usual the lady asks the value.

Thanking you in advance for any assistance which you can give me with this problem, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Willoughby M. Babcock

WMB.

November 2, 1932.

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Babcock:

As your surmise, the medal in question is a memorial medal to U. S. Grant. I do not locate this medal in our collection, but nevertheless I think I have seen it. It like many other such medals is of private manufacture and presumably is not silver but hard pewter or white metal, as we term it. As the piece appears to be worn it has no value. If in fine condition it would probably be worth about twenty-five cents.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator